

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday December 31st 2006

New Years Greetings

The IRTS would like to wish a prosperous New Year to all radio experimenters. Many thanks to all our members for your support during 2006 and we look forward to your continued support in the New Year.

IRTS 75th Jubilee Logos

The special 75th jubilee commemorative IRTS logos are available to members for use on their QSL's and web sites etc. Use of these logos will help promote the Society and the 75th celebrations. The logos can be downloaded from www.irts.ie Simply go to the information section and click on 'Downloads'.

AFRI75 IRTS 75th Jubilee Dxpedition 2007

AFRI75 is a DXpedition to Swaziland between the 16th of March and the 30th of March 2007 to celebrate the 75th Jubilee of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society. The DXpedition will be QRV for St Patrick's Day and for CQ WPX. Callsigns in use will be published as soon as available. The expedition leader is IRTS vice president Paul Martin EI2CA. A private newsgroup for this DXpedition is available at uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AFRI75/

Admission to this group is by request only and is at the discretion of the group moderators. So far signed up members of the expedition are; Peter EI7CC, Aidan EI8CE, Paddy EI8BFB, David EI4DJ (GI4FUM), Rory EI4DJB, Brendan EI3GV, Pete GI4VIV and Paul EI2CA. Skeds may be requested to any expedition member.

Theory Examination

The next Theory Examination for the Experimenter's Licence will be held on Thursday the 18th of January next at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices, Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin.

Most of the places for this examination have already been allocated. As places for the exam are limited, any other people wishing to sit this examination should contact Sean EI7CD immediately either at QTHR or by e-mail to “ei7cd at gofree dot indigo dot ie”. Those who have applied so far have been sent by post all the necessary written details about the examination. Those who have received this information and have not already done so should, as requested, forward the necessary examination fee immediately to Sean EI7CD in order to reserve a place at the examination.

Those at present studying for an Experimenter's Licence may wish to obtain a copy of the CD course Guide produced by the Society. These are available from Sean EI7CD at a cost of 5 Euro to cover registration, postage and packaging.

Theory Classes

Theory classes are planned to commence in the Carrigtwohill in early January. Anyone interested should contact Dave Moore EI4BZ on 087-6290574 or any member of Cork Radio Club or the East Cork Radio Group. Theory classes in Waterford will resume on Tuesday the 2nd of January at 7.30 p.m. in the Roanmore Centre.

New Examination Manual

The RSGB has announced the publication of the International Amateur Radio Examination Manual. This book comprises both theory and practical tasks and can be used for group or individual study. The publication borrows heavily from the three books already published for each of the three levels of licence available in the UK. It seeks to bring together in one publication all of the information required by the syllabus for the CEPT Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate, HAREC on which the multiple-choice examination in use here is based. This publication is welcomed as another useful resource for anyone studying for an experimenter's licence. The book is available through the Book Sales section of the IRTS website at www.irts.ie

80 metre Counties Contest

The Society will launch its 75th Anniversary celebrations on New Year's Day with the 80 metre Counties Contest. This was a very popular event last year with almost 100 EI and GI stations active. Given that it's the Jubilee Year, we are asking everybody to make a special effort to be QRV, for at least part of the Contest, which runs from 1200

to 1500 hours local time. Full rules are available on the Society website www.irts.ie

As a special incentive, all stations that submit a log to the contest manager will be awarded a special Participation Certificate to hang on the shack wall. In addition, there will be a special Jubilee Year edition of the Worked All EI Counties Award available for award chasers. QSO's for this award must be made during 2007. Given last years 80 metre Counties Contest activity, is it possible that a '26 Counties endorsed' Award number One will be achieved on the first day of the new year.

Operators can get free logging software for the 80 metre Counties Contest. Download SD from ei5di.com and select the "IRTS County EI/GI" template". SD runs on any Windows PC.

Rallies

Five radio rallies are scheduled to take place during February, March and April 2007. The first is the Phoenix Amateur Radio Club Rally in Coolmine Community School, Dublin 15 on Sunday the 4th of February. Next comes the Limerick Rally, which is in the Greenhills Hotel on Sunday the 11th of March. Later that month, on Saturday 24th of March, the Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society holds its rally in Lisburn, while on Sunday the 15th of April the Lough Erne Amateur Radio Show takes place in a new venue, the Share Centre at Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh.

The IRTS AGM and Rally takes place on Sunday the 22nd of April in the Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork, with the AGM Dinner on the previous night. More details of these events are in the current issue of Echo Ireland and on the "Rallies and Events" page of www.irts.ie

Phoenix Rally

The Phoenix rally takes place on the 4th of February 2007 in the Coolmine Community School, Blanchardstown. Admission is 4 Euro and doors open at 11.00 a.m. Doors are open at 8.30 a.m. for traders.

The emphasis of this rally is on the "Bring and Buy" aspect and radio amateurs are encouraged bring along any items that they would like to part with as it is felt by the organisers that many of those who attend rallies do so with the intention of acquiring parts and second hand equipment.

VHF Nets

A monthly six metre net meets on the first Monday of each month on 50.135 MHz SSB using horizontal polarisation at 2100 local time. The next net will take place on Monday the 8th of January.

The 4-metre activity night takes place on the first Tuesday of each month between 2000 and 2200 local time. The Call Frequency is 70.2625 MHz. So if you have any AM, FM or SSB 4-metre equipment either vertically or horizontally polarised, please give a call in to the net. The next activity night is on Tuesday the 2nd of January.

Also have a listen for the 4-metre simplexer on 70.350 MHz. Send reports to “ei3ix at eircom dot net”.

Emergency Centre of Activity Frequencies

The National co-ordinator would like to remind EI experimenters of the Emergency Centre of Activity Frequencies, which were adopted by the IARU Region 1 General Conference in 2005. Global Centre of Activity frequencies are; 21.360 MHz on the 15 metre band, 18.160 MHz on the 17 metre band and 14.300 MHz on 20 metres.

Region 1 Centre of Activity frequencies are; 7.060 MHz on the 40 metre band and 3.760 MHz on 80 metres.

These are not channels for exclusive emergency use only, but are preferred centre frequencies for such activities. The centre frequencies are as follows;

Special Event Callsigns for Scouting Ireland

2007 is the centenary of World Scouting and in 2008 Scouting Ireland will celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Ireland. As part of the centenary celebrations; Scouting Ireland has been allotted two special event callsigns - EI 100 S (Echo India One Hundred Sierra) and EI 100 SI (Echo India One hundred Sierra India) for 2007 and 2008. Scout Groups wishing to avail of the callsigns should apply to Sean EI3IP who can be contacted by email at jota at scouts dot ie.

Items for inclusion in next weeks Radio News should be forwarded to Mark Wall, EI7IS at QTHR or by phone to 051-853806 or 087-6302026. Items for the radio news can also be faxed to 087 5 6302026. News should be submitted via e-mail to “news at irts dot ie” for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Friday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

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